

**WOMEN'S POSITION AND ROLE IN  
CHARLOTTE BRONTE'S *SHIRLEY*:  
A FEMINIST APPROACH**

Research Paper



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by:

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MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA**

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**APPROVAL**

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**MOTTO**

***BE YOUR SELF***

***DO THE BEST THAT YOU CAN DO***

***AND***

***SEIZE THE DAY***

## DEDICATION

Dedicated to:

- *My beloved parents, who gives life to me turned a baby into a lady; gives love to me turned a young one into a woman. I love you.*
- *My beloved brother and sister, **Heru** and **Tya** Thanks for your support and kindness; and keeping me with love.*
- *My knight in shining, **Awan**, who fight every my nightmares and soften my world with love and passion. I Surrender.*

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The writer realizes that this research paper is far from being perfect. In order to make this research paper better, the writer welcomes any comments, critiques, and suggestion. The writer hopes that this research paper is useful for the readers who want to develop the English literary study.

Wassalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb.

Surakarta, December 2003

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## SUMMARY

**LISTIO MURDIANTI, A. 320 990 033. WOMEN'S POSITION AND ROLE IN CHARLOTTE BRONTE'S *SHIRLEY*: A FEMINIST APPROACH. MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA. RESEARCH PAPER.**

The object of the research is the novel entitled *Shirley* by Charlotte Bronte. The study gives focus on the women's position and role as reflected in Charlotte Bronte's *Shirley*. The aim of the study is finding the women's position and role.

The analysis uses descriptive qualitative by describing the structural elements and feminist analysis. The approach uses feminist theory. The primary source of criticism toward the novel is used for further analysis. The data collecting technique is library research. The data analysis uses descriptive technique and content analysis.

The outcome of the study is, *Shirley* is Bronte's work that represents the social criticism, a protest against both insensitivity of the mill owners and the subservient position of women. Bronte does not agree with the condition in English culture. She wants to change the opinion of the people. The result of the feminist analysis shows that Bronte insists that women's position and role should be equal to those of men.

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## APPENDIX

### ***SHIRLEY: A SYNOPSIS***

Shirley was published in 1849, belonging to the period of 'Victorian Age', which is often used to cover the whole of the nineteenth century. The nineteenth century was known as the age of revolutions. The coming of Industrial Revolution, which is brought an increase in population and urbanization. Shirley is Bronte's work that represents the social criticism. Shirley is often seen as a revolutionary novel, about male power over workers and women position.

The novel has two major characters; Shirley and Caroline, that they have different characteristics. Shirley is strong, confident and independent woman, Caroline is a shy and obedient woman, but they have good relationship. The story is started when Caroline and Shirley met for the first time at Fielhead. They have their conversation that makes them to be a friend. Caroline told Shirley that actually she wants to leave Yorkshire because she think that she cannot do nothing, with her uncle that always persistent her to do something, and she cannot go anywhere because a girl in her society must stay at home and do the public role. Beside that, because of Caroline loves her cousin, Robert Gerard Moore, but she does not has a bravely to told him that she loves him and gets her love.

Because of Shirley is strong woman, she told Caroline, she cannot surrender to her destiny, that she must take the chance in hr life. And she must tell to her uncle if between men and women are same, she must get her love if she really loves Robert.

One day, when the factory begins to bankrupt, Shirley suggested to marry with Robert Moore to help him because in an effort to recoup his losses. Moore courts Shirley, but Shirley refused it. And when her uncle said that said that Shirley must marry with Sir Philip Nunnely, he is a good person and he is rich, so he can help their business family. Shirley refused it too because Sir Philip Nunnely is too young for her and she does not love him; she loves someone.

All of the problem can be finished, that Shirley must not gets marriage with both of them, but she will invest the factory with the office voluntary and unreluctant and she will be made magistrate of distinct. The end is when Shirley married with Louis Gerard Moore, and Caroline with Robert Gerard Moore, and thy lived happily.

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Sex roles are the expectations for behavior and attitudes that the culture defines as appropriate for men and women, and sex role socialization refers to the process by which sex roles are learned by a society's members. Through sex role socialization, different behaviors and attitudes are encouraged and discouraged in men and women. Social expectation is about, what is properly masculine and feminine are communicated to us through the socialization process. Although probably no one of us becomes exactly what the cultural ideal describes, the gender relations we learn in our social development condition our roles in social institution.

The inequality of women is not an inevitable fact: studies of a variety of societies indicate that women's status varies cross-culturally and over time. The condition has happened for along time, so that many people believe that the imbalance between man and woman is natural. All these points became the central issue in the nineteenth century women's right movements in Victorian age England. At the time, feminism arose as awareness toward the oppression and pressing out toward women in society, in work and in family. Many of them were written by women writers, who put much attention to the issue of the gender equity of women in almost all of her plays.